## In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1   1.   [Currently amended]  A method for maintaining
2   synchronization of ledger accounts between a back-end
3   procurement system and a front-end requisition and catalog
4   system on behalf of a plurality of customer companies of an
5   enterprise providing procurement services to a plurality of
6   company groups, each said company group including a
7   different plurality of said customer companies, comprising
8   the steps of:

9          associating a plurality of said customer companies
10         within a company group, said customer companies within
11         said company group using a same chart of accounts which
12         varies with respect to a chart of accounts associated
13         with a different company group of customer companies of
14         said enterprise;

15         maintaining a requisition and catalog system at each
16         said customer company;

17         maintaining said chart of accounts in said procurement
18         system at said enterprise;

19         periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
20         account identification indicia and descriptive

21          information for a given customer company;

22          communicating said account identification indicia and
23          descriptive information to said requisition and catalog
24          system for each said customer company of a given
25          company group;

26          at said requisition and catalog system, storing said
27          indicia and information in a data store of valid
28          general ledger accounts associated with said company
29          group for said given customer company;

30          associating commodity codes with said account
31          identification indicia;

32          pushing commodity code/account identification
33          associations to all other companies in said company
34          group of said given customer company;

35          responsive to a user request for a requisition of a
36          commodity, providing a selection list of valid account
37          codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users
38          from companies within said company group.

2.      [Canceled]

3.      [Canceled]

1    4.    [Currently amended]   A procurement accounting system
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2     for a plurality of customer companies of an enterprise

3     providing procurement services to a plurality of company

4     groups, each said company group including a different

5     plurality of said customer companies, comprising:

6          a back-end procurement system;

7          a front-end requisition and catalog system;

8          a first chart of accounts store maintained in said

9          procurement system;

10         a second chart of accounts maintained in said

11         requisition and catalog system of a given customer

12         company within a given group of customer companies

13         which differs from a chart of accounts for a different

14         group of said customer companies;

15         an extract utility at said procurement system for

16         periodically extracting from said first chart of

17         accounts, account identification indicia and

18         descriptive information for a given company;

19         an update utility at said requisition and catalog

20         system for associating said account identification

21         indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;

22         a data store for storing said indicia and information;

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23      a company group table for storing company identifiers
24      associated with each of a plurality of company group
25      codes;

26      said update utility further for pushing to all
27      companies within a company group code associations of
28      commodity codes and account identification indicia
29      entered for a given company within said company group
30      codes; and

31      an output device responsive to a user request for a
32      purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list
33      of valid account codes and descriptive information for
34      said company group code.

6.      [Canceled]

7.      [Canceled]

1       8.      [Currently amended]  A program storage device readable
2       by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3       executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4       maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a
5       back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and
6       catalog system on behalf of a plurality of customer
7       companies of an enterprise providing procurement services to
8       a plurality of company groups, each said company group
9       including a different plurality of said customer companies,
10      said method steps comprising:

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11       associating a plurality of <u>customer</u> companies within a

12       company group, said <u>customer</u> companies within said

13       group using a same chart of accounts which differs from

14       a chart of accounts for a different group of said

15       <u>customer</u> companies;

16       maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

17       system;

18       periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

19       account identification indicia and descriptive

20       information for a given company;

21       communicating said indicia and information to said

22       requisition and catalog system of said given company;

23       at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

24       indicia and information in a data store of valid

25       general ledger accounts associated with said company

26       group code for said given <u>customer</u> company;

27       associating commodity codes with said account

28       identification indicia;

29       pushing commodity code/account identification

30       associations to all other companies in said company

31       group of said given <u>customer</u> company; and

32       responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

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33      commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

34      codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

35      from companies within said company group.

1    9.    [Currently amended]  A computer program product or

2    computer program element for maintaining synchronization of

3    ledger accounts between a back-end procurement system and a

4    front-end requisition and catalog system on behalf of a

5    plurality of customer companies of an enterprise providing

6    procurement services to a plurality of company groups, each

7    said company group including a different plurality of said

8    customer companies according to method steps comprising:

9        associating a plurality of companies within a company

10       group, companies within said group using a same chart

11       of accounts which differs from a chart of accounts for

12       a different group of said companies;

13       maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

14       system;

15       periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

16       account identification indicia and descriptive

17       information for a given <u>customer</u> company;

18       communicating said indicia and information to said

19       requisition and catalog system;

20       at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

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21      indicia and information in a data store of valid
22      general ledger accounts associated with said company
23      group code for said given customer company;

24      associating commodity codes with said account
25      identification indicia;

26      pushing commodity code/account identification
27      associations to all other companies in said company
28      group of said given customer company;

29      responsive to a user request for a requisition of a
30      commodity, providing a selection list of valid account
31      codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users
32      from companies within said company group.


10.   [Canceled]


11.   [Canceled]


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